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THIRSK
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1955.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1955.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The year was not an unfavourable one from a Public Health point of view. The only epidemic of note was a long drawn out one of Measles which, beginning in the middle of January, persisted till the end of July. Although there were a few cases of Whooping Cough the disease did not assume epidemic form during the year under survey. Work in connection with sewage disposal goes forward.

I again would record the great help I have received from our Clerk, the Sanitary Inspectors and indeed from all the members of the Public Health Staff.

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Public Health Staff.

Clerk	W. A. Wilkinson
Sanitary Inspector		F. Metcalfe, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,	
		Cert. Meat & Other Foods.	
Additional Sanitary Inspector		R. M. Sharphouse, A.R.S.I.,	
		M.S.I.A., A.I. Hsg.	
Medical Officer of Health	W. G. MacArthur, M.B., Ch. B.		
(Part time)			

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SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	71,544
Estimated residential population (Civilians)		R.G.'s figures	...	14,380
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,038
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£113,098
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£310

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births—	216	119	97	Birth rate per 1,000 of
Legitimate	209	114	95	the population 15.02
Illegitimate	7	5	2	
Still Births—	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 of all
Legitimate	5	2	3	births 23.80
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths registered				Death rate per 1,000 of
in the Area	143	67	76	the population 9.94
Deaths of Infants under				
4 weeks of age	6	3	3	
Legitimate	6	3	3	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under				
1 year of age	11	6	5	
Legitimate	11	6	5	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births				50.91
Death rate Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births				54.90
Death rate Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Death from Cancer (all ages) (Headings 10-14 inclusive)				20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 8)				Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 5)				Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) (Heading 27)				2

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SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff.

See above.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Adequate laboratory help is provided by the Pathological Laboratory at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton and also from that at York.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

This, under the National Health Act, is under the control of the County Medical Officer.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**

This is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

As in previous years, Ear, Nose and Throat, Obstetric and Gynaecological and Eye Clinics are held at the Lambert Memorial Hospital, Thirsk.

(e) **Hospitals.**

The only Hospital in our Area is the Lambert Memorial Hospital at Thirsk administered by the York Management Committee.

Sections C, D and E are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

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SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	3	2 (Military Hospital)	Nil
Measles	104	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	1	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	7	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	4	1 (Military Hospital)	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil	Nil

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Poliomyelitis</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>
1-2	-	10	-	-	-	1
2-3	-	10	1	-	-	-
3-4	1	10	-	-	-	1
4-5	-	14	-	-	-	2
5-10	1	60	-	-	-	2
10-15	1	2	-	-	-	1
15-25	-	-	2	-	-	-
25-45	-	1	1	1	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	1	-

(a) Prevention of Blindness.

No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5								
5-10								
10-15								
15-25		1						
25-35								
35-45	1	1						
45-55		1						
55-65								
65 & over						1		
	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

Causes of Death in Thirsk Rural District in 1955.

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
13. Other Malignant & Neoplasm Uterus	-	2
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	6
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	10	15
18. Coronary disease, Angina	7	6
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2
20. Other Heart Diseases	12	21
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
23. Pneumonia	5	3
24. Bronchitis	-	5
26. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	2	-
28. Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	1
31. Congenital Malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	9	5

33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-
34. All other Accidents	5	2
35. Suicide	1	-
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Total	67	76

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I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MACARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1955.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspector's department for the year 1955.

The completion of the new sewers and sewage disposal works for Thirsk and Sowerby enabled the operation of a closet conversion scheme and good progress was made during the year in the conversion of pails and privy middens into water closets.

Other useful work carried out under the Housing Act was in the issue of Grants, so enabling houses to be brought up to a good standard of accommodation in the provision of bathrooms and other amenities.

During the year the re-construction of the Public Conveniences was commenced.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

F. METCALFE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The greater part of the Council's area is supplied by the Thirsk District Water Company, either direct or through mains owned by the Council, the water being purchased as bulk supplies.

Water undertakings owned by the Council are Knayton (Springs), Kilburn (Springs), Langthorpe (Borehole), Pick-

hill (Borehole).

During the year, Knayton Springs failed in supply and were insufficient for both domestic and farm use. It was therefore decided as an emergency to permit the addition of a land drain spring to the reservoir supply, which on analysis had been found satisfactory for drinking, and approach to be made to the Thirsk District Water Company on the provision of an adequate supply to the village as early as possible.

As land springs are liable to contamination, householders were advised to boil all water before drinking as a precautionary measure.

Thirlby Supply.

This private supply derived from land springs is quite insufficient for all purposes and the Thirsk District Water Company are formulating a scheme for this village.

Water Samples.

14 Samples were submitted for examination; 2 found unsatisfactory were of private well supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

With the completion of Stage I of the Thirsk and Sowerby Sewage Scheme, permission was given towards the end of the year to proceed with the full scheme, namely the provision of sewers in Carlton Miniott, Sandhutton and South Kilvington.

New sewers were laid and sewage disposal works provided in the village of Howe, where considerable sanitary improvements had been carried out.

Closet Accommodation.

As a result of the completion of the sewage disposal works for Thirsk and Sowerby, special action was taken to secure the conversion of Privies and Pail Closets to the water carriage system, half the cost of each conversion being allowed, but not exceeding £9 for the Council's contribution.

This resulted in 50 conversions of privies or pails into water closets under this scheme.

In addition there were 46 conversions in connection with Housing improvements.

13 Additional water closets were provided to existing properties and 55 for new houses, a total of 164 water closets being installed during the year.

Much of the district is still, however, served by privy middens and/or pail closets.

Public Cleansing.

This is carried out over the whole of the area by direct labour, our own men and vehicles being employed.

The work is increasing each year, with the erection of new houses, both private and those erected by the Council, also many new houses have been erected on the R.A.F. Station at Topcliffe.

All receptacles are cleared, including cesspools. Dustbins and pails are emptied once each week and fixed receptacles monthly, excepting at isolated premises which are cleared on request.

Trade Refuse from business premises in Thirsk and Sowerby is also collected, a small annual charge being made for this service.

The Market Place is cleaned up after the weekly Monday Market, also on the Sunday mornings during the Summer months.

Refuse Disposal.

The collected refuse is disposed of in quarries by controlled tipping, a Chaseside Digger being used. All refuse is properly covered over with soil and the tip fully controlled, so keeping it tidy and free of fires and nuisance.

Public Conveniences.

During the year a commencement was made on the reconstruction of the Public Conveniences in the Market Place, Thirsk to afford more commodious and up-to-date premises for the ever increasing road traffic coming into Thirsk.

The premises had to be closed during such re-construction work and temporary accommodation was therefore provided in the vicinity of the Market Place and were kept open day and night.

Tent, Vans and Sheds.

There are two licensed camping sites in the area for the accommodation of trailer vans.

There are other licensed individual camping sites for trailer vans, which are chiefly used during the summer months for holiday purposes.

Sale of Scrap Metal and Marine Store Dealers.

Six persons are registered for the sale of scrap metal, which includes four as Marine Store Dealers.

Pets Act.

Only 2 persons are registered under this Act.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.—4 Persons were registered as distributors of milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Eight Licenses were also granted for the retail sale of designated milks.

Bottled milk is chiefly retailed, much of it being produced from premises outside the Area.

There were no complaints regarding the condition of the milk retailed in the Area.

Meat.—11 Private Slaughterhouses are licensed, namely five in Thirsk and six in the district. A Thirsk Slaughterhouse provides slaughtering accommodation for five butchers.

There is no public slaughterhouse.

480 Visits to Slaughterhouses were made during the year, of which 375 were for the inspection of meat.

30 Slaughtermen's Licenses were issued.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses Nil.
Number killed	not known					
Number inspected	525	8	11	638	603	—

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.

Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	1	2	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	1	1	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculo- sis and Cysticerci.	2.7	12.5	18.3	.31	.36	—

Tuberculosis only.

Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	.96	—	—	—	.83	—

Cystiscercosis.

Carcases of which some part
or organ was condemned Nil

Carcases submitted to treat-
ment by refrigeration Nil

Generalised and totally con-
demned. Nil

Other Foods.

Ice Cream.

31 Premises are registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream, which is sold in pre-packed containers.

In only one case is ice cream manufactured on the premises.

Fried Fish and Chip Premises.

7 Premises are registered for the sale of fried fish and chips.

Bakehouses.

There are two factory bakehouses, one of which manufactures wrapped bread. There are also four small bakehouses which chiefly make cakes, etc., and two for the manufacture of meat pies.

A considerable amount of bread and confectionery is brought into the area from adjoining towns for retail sale.

Unsound Food—Condemned.

30 Certificates were issued in respect of preserved foods surrendered by local shops and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Rodent Control.

The Council employ one Rodent Operator, part-time on Rodent Control throughout the area.

During the year, 955 inspections and re-inspections were made.

The maintenance treatment for rats in sewers was carried out during the year, 25 manholes being test baited.

The Council's refuse tips, Sewage Disposal Works, etc., were inspected and treated as found necessary.

New Building Bye-laws.

Number of Houses erected by Local Authority	...	37
Number of Houses erected by Private Persons	...	18

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of Inspections made :—

Public Health Act ...	...	1057
Food and Drugs Act	...	615
Petroleum Acts	...	6
Factories Act	...	40
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act		955

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HOUSING.

New Council Houses.

Work on the site at Topcliffe proceeded steadily, and by August the 26 dwellings were completed and occupied. This scheme includes two blocks of flats, the first to be built in the rural area. The completion of the site brings the total number of Council Houses in this village to 46.

A Contract was obtained for the building of 12 houses at Dalton and all the houses were complete and occupied by the end of the year.

A start was also made on the Norby housing project with the acceptance of a tender for the first 52 houses, the Contractor taking over the Site in November.

ACTION UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Housing Statistics are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry, and are therefore excluded from this report. A brief summary of action taken under the various Housing enactments is as follows :—

Housing Act, 1936, and Amendments.

The information required by Circular 55/54 was submitted to the Ministry on the basis of a re-survey of the unfit houses in the district. The gist of the return was that the Council considered there were 274 houses which should be replaced and that the replacement could be effected within 5 years.

Various individual unfit houses were dealt with during the year either by demolition or closure.

Housing Act, 1949.

The Council continued to allow grants to the limit of their powers.

It is worthy of mention that with the assistance of Improvement Grants one of the smaller villages in the Area is now 100% up to present day standard of amenity, e.g., each house has a W.C., bathroom and hot water system.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

As last year, little advantage was taken of the provisions of this Act, and the overall improvement of houses has not been significantly affected by the powers given to owners to increase rents providing repairs were carried out.

Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous) Provisions Act, 1946.

The Council accepts the principle of allowing grants for private owners to erect houses for farm workers where it is not convenient for the Council to build houses themselves.

Thirsk Rural District Council.

*With the Compliments
of the Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.*

*Council Offices,
Thirsk.*

